

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee
(SSTMD AC) Meeting Summary
September 20, 2007**

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- 1. Introductions:** Members and guests introduced themselves. Attendance sheet attached.
- 2. Review of Meeting Minutes:** The minutes for July 12, 2007 were approved and seconded.
- 3. Chair's Comments:** **Jim Polk** stated that **Michael Hunston** has left Discovery, and should no longer be on the representative attendance list. **Courtney Deines-Jones** was replaced at the end of her term as the Greater Silver Spring Chamber representative by **Tom Collins**.

Mr. Polk added that the committee should start considering its ideas for the next County budget.

- 4. Purple Line Discussion:** **Mr. Polk** stated the committee had previously agreed that the Purple Line should be routed through the Transit Center, but not the specifics of entrance or egress. The egress toward the south and east has a few different options. One of the "surface" options (as opposed to tunneling or elevated tracks), involving Bonifant, and Wayne, with a dividing point at Fenton, is the least expensive option. However, this may have more of an impact on traffic than other options. The County will study these issues. Mr. Polk believes that from a traffic and safety standpoint, the committee should develop a position. **Ms. Deines-Jones** offered to work with Mr. Polk to develop a position paper with a content expert.

- 5. Pedestrian Safety Update:** **Jim Carlson** briefed the committee on the June 18th walking tour of CBD. There was very good attendance from various state and county agencies. Most of the areas in question were under the jurisdiction of State Highway Administration (SHA), so concerns related to their jurisdiction were forwarded to them. The County plans to install cross hatching on certain crosswalks as part of the County's three year cycle. Most of these areas in question are State issues, but the County will also be involved where necessary. Another concern is the relatively fast speeds of countdown timers on walk/don't walk signals as compared to other jurisdictions. The County uses standard engineering specifications in the design of crosswalks and intersections, which includes a 4-foot per second rule for the average pedestrian walking speed.

- 6. Updates:** **Mr. Carlson** reminded the group that the Commuter Services office and commuter store will be moving, but the moves are still a couple months away. **Mr. Polk** asked what publicity is being done to notify the general public about the move. **Theresa O'Steen** responded that CSS will be handing out notices. All of CSS's employers in the database will be notified, and Brookfield Properties will put up a sign at the old venue. It is possible that there will be website notices. Various signage options were discussed.

Ms. O'Steen updated the group on Traffic Mitigation Plans (TMPs). Ten people are in violation and have not responded with a TMP. The County Attorney's Office is reviewing some of these instances. The fines can range to as much as \$100 per day.

- 7. Other Business & Around the Room:** **Charles Segerman** mentioned the Gazette Article regarding the problem with the Birchmere project over the summer. **Mel Tull** stated that he was not involved in any of the negotiations, but it was fairly certain that after five years of pursuing this, there was still no agreement with Birchmere that was reasonable while the State and the County were both trying to get monies appropriated. However, now that the State and the County have both already allocated a second \$2 million, it was time for Birchmere to get the agreement put on record. They were not able to get the kind of commitment to detail necessary. They are fairly close at this point to find an operator who is willing to sign a letter of intent. Every indication is that the County will bring in another large music venue of similar quality. Road improvement, bus shelters, etc. are still being considered, as are pedestrian cross buttons and audio signals.

A member expressed concern about making a left turn at the Wayne Ave signal when everyone wants to go into the garage. The line can back up past Colesville Rd. He suggested that the turn signal be made longer.

A member asked if pedestrian crosswalks could be placed below a potential surface level Purple Line track. **Mr. Tull** responded that it is still too early to consider that before the plan for the tracks was set. A member requested that the Purple Line be added to a future agenda.

A member asked about the intersection between Ellsworth and Cedar. This is a concern because currently there are no pedestrian indicators, but there is a good deal of pedestrian traffic. **Mr. Carlson** responded that this was not one of the intersections identified on the June 18th tour.

A member observed that the Bus shelters at Silver Spring Station between A and U are very well-labeled on the Transit Center IOS way finder signs, but expressed concern about the UMD shuttle and the Ride On 127, which do not have a marked shelter there. **Ms. O'Steen** stated that when they do the Interim facility, every bus will be indicated by color code and time.

Mr. Polk asked about the status of the Civic Center – when it is expected to start, funding and way finding signs. **Mr. Polk** also asked about the apartment complex at 16th and East West Highway.

Mr. Tull responded regarding the Civic Center. They are in the process of getting the final documents together so they can put it out for bids. They are working on signage for the historic buildings of Silver Spring.

Mr. Polk noted – regarding construction in Silver Spring – that contractors routinely disregard pedestrian needs by closing off sidewalks and not offering alternative covered routes around constructions sites, as is done in DC. He added that Montgomery County appears to be lax on enforcement when it comes to contractors. **Mr. Polk** noted that it is a safety issue.

Mr. Tull answered that in some instances there is no existing sidewalk at the site, and contractors must build the sidewalk and supporting infrastructure that involves work underground as part of the overall project.

Ms. Deines-Jones stated that in the case of a project on East West Highway an existing sidewalk was closed. **Mr. Tull** answered that it was a strip of asphalt only. **Ms. Jones** stated that the distinction between asphalt and a concrete sidewalk made no difference, at least as far as pedestrians were concerned – it served the same purpose. **Mr. Tull** answered that an asphalt path does not provide a curb or a gutter – it had to be dug up in order to put the underground infrastructure in place.

Mr. Polk concluded that he understood the need to make provisions for construction, but that the current situation with sidewalk closures and fenced off areas is getting out of hand.

Mr. Tull added that the Falklands Apartment complex on East West Highway (near Kinko's and Rite Aid) will be redeveloped with 1000 apartments and 60,000 sq ft of retail. There will be one signalized entrance to the complex on East West. **Mr. Tull** stated that the community response during a presentation of the project involved concerns about the large amount of traffic that is going to be generated. The project developers responded that they expected large numbers of people to rely on Metro, because of its proximity to the station; they do not expect people to drive in and out to work everyday.

Ms. O'Steen asked about the provision for parking. **Mr. Tull** answered that underground parking will be available.

Mr. Polk added that the parking may be adequate for residents, but that if retail is also available there could be a repeat of the Whole Foods parking problem. **Mr. Tull** said there will be a separate parking section for the retail component.

Future Agenda Items: Presentation on the Falklands project and traffic impacts. Include the plan for pedestrian safety on East West Highway during construction. **Mr. Tull** will arrange a presentation.

Adjourn

Meeting ended at 9:25AM

Next meeting: October 11, 2007

**Silver Spring Transportation Management District Advisory Committee (SSTMD AC) Attendance Sheet
September 20, 2007**

| | | | |
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| Voting Members (12) | | | |
| Name | Affiliation | Present | Absent |
| Chamber Members (3) | | | |
| Ali Mahmood | Chevy Chase Bank | | X |
| James S. Polk, Chairman | Technology Service Corporation | X | |
| Courtney Deines-Jones | The Grimalkin Group | X | |
| Citizens Advisory Board Members (3) | | | |
| Edward Furgol | Kemp Mill, Four Corners, East SS | X | |
| Charles Segerman, Vice Chairman | North & West Sector Plan Area | X | |
| Andy Wexler | CBD Resident | X | |
| TMD Employers less than 50 employees (3) | | | |
| Julian Leidman | Bonanza Coin | X | |
| Suvita Melehy | Melehy & Associates | | X |
| Cathy Wilde | Solid Waste Assoc of North America | X | |
| TMD Employers with 50 or more employees (3) | | | |
| Vacant Position | | | |
| Robin Goudy | Social & Scientific Systems | | X |
| Geoffrey Kreig | Merchant Link | X | |
| Non-Voting Members (4) | | | |
| Sande Brecher, DPWT Transit Services | DPWT Director or Designee | | X |
| Chuck Kines | M-NCPPC | | X |
| Sergeant Thomas Harmon | Montgomery County Police | | X |
| Staff | | | |
| Terrie O'Steen | DPWT, Commuter Services | X | |
| David Kantor | DPWT, Commuter Services | X | |
| Jim Carlson | DPWT, Commuter Services | X | |
| Guests | | | |
| Amber Brailer | Social & Scientific – attending for R. Goudy | X | |
| Mel Tull | Silver Spring Regional Services Center | X | |
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